

A NEEDED REFORM.

Anderson Intelligencer.

In the court of general sessions at Greenville a few days ago two white girls, aged 15 and 16 years, were arraigned on a charge of petty larceny. They admitted their guilt, and Judge P.ince, a big-hearted and kindly man was confronted with the cold necessity of sentencing them to a term of imprisonment along with other prisoners because the state has no reform school where wayward girls of tender age can be sent and given a chance to turn from lives of sin to lives of respectability and usefulness.

From the newspaper account of their appearance in court we learn that they had left home as wilful and foolish girls will sometimes do; that they got into bad company and had contracted the habit of drinking whiskey; that it was an easy step to go further and begin to lead immoral lives. Once upon the downward road, there was none to pity and none to help them retrace the path of sin and shame.

"Both girls wore short skirts scarcely below their knees" runs the newspaper story, "and though rather shabbily dressed, were not like in appearance women of the underworld, but rather gave the appearance of ignorant children who failed to see the horror of the situation; and, even if they did see it, they were powerless to avert it. What chance have they? Where can they go? What can they do? Those were some of the questions that flitted through the minds of those present, and the usual looks passed around the court room where men see day by day those who are hardened to crime, or who appear as criminals, were lacking. There were no smirks, no sly winks at one another, but solemn-faced men looked at the tragedy—a real, present tragedy and not one depicted on the films—of two girls, helpless, friendless and with absolutely nothing before them in the world."

Following the suggestion of the court, the grand jury requested the presiding judge to present to the governor the urgent necessity of an institution for the reformation of female prisoners who are so unfortunate as to violate the laws, thus subjecting themselves to conditions that encourage vice and lawlessness, and asked that the governor be urged to recommend to the general assembly the passage of an act for the relief of erring girls.

The Greenville case has attracted much attention already, and it will emphasize the unfairness of neglecting helpless girls by the state when relief was long ago granted to boys of a similar case. The reform school at Florence for boys has been maintained for many years, and it is recognized as an institution of vast possibilities in remaking and reshaping the lives of young boys who while not criminals at heart, have yet committed some criminal act or have shown an incorrigible disposition.

At the last session of the general assembly a bill was introduced by Senator Sherard of Anderson in the senate and by Representative Boyd of Spartanburg in the house to establish an industrial home for the reform of wayward girls. This bill is now on the calendar of both houses and will pass at the next session of the legislature. The proposed act provides for the admission of girls between the ages of eight and eighteen who have been convicted of any violation of law or who are being brought up under immoral and vicious surroundings. There is a need for an institution of this kind, and it has the full endorsement of the Federation of Women's Clubs in this state as well as that of all men and women interested in social betterment.

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Let Joy be Unconfined.

Florence Times.

Since the dance is on we suppose that there is nothing to prevent all of the joyousness of the swing around the state next summer. We were not among the prophets who prophesied that Blease was a "dead-un." We did believe and do still believe, that he was so badly scotched last year that he won't have a come back. We stated just two days ago, before the publication of his "On With The Dance" proclamation, that the nomination of Sam Nicholls to Congress would be made the occasion for an announcement from Blease. It arrived on schedule time. But we said that Nicholls' success by no means spelled success for Blease for the reason that the issue was by no means Blease, or could be accounted a victory for reaction. It was, we declared, a straight fight, within the restricted territory of the fourth congressional district between, first, Spartanburg and Greenville, with the smaller counties ranged on one or the other sides, as their individual interest dictated, second, between Nicholls, a young and personally popular, magnetic and enthusiastic young man of easy character, and Morgan, a conservative, a somewhat cold and un-magnetic man of an older generation. Injected into the issue of personal popularity as between these men, there was the issue of rivalry as between the two principal cities of the Piedmont and the internal issue in Greenville of the bond issue. Upon these issues wheels within wheels, with the old issue of "Bleasism" circling on the outside, nurtured with all their might by Blease and his friends, trying to get into the fight—but not succeeding—Nicholls won by a very narrow margin.

This was a very thin margin to land on but the crafty Cole L. has, like the old tom-cat, made his jump. It was a case of now or never and being of a naturally venturesome disposition Blease has not hesitated to take another cast of the dice.

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Augusta Chronicle.

The state of Illinois has decided that a piece of work done for it by a woman is worth just as much as the same piece of work done equally well by a man. Any rational and disinterested human being would probably say that the fact is self-evident, but very few communities in America have yet recognized it.

Beginning September 1st all women employees of the state will receive the same pay as men doing the same class of work. This step, decided on by the state board of administration, affects 3,500 employees and indirectly some 20,000 wards in state institutions.

It is regarded as an act of simple justice. "There is no reason," explains the president of the board, "why a woman nurse in a state institution should not receive as high wages as the men attendants for the same class of work." It is the same view taken in New York when that city broke the ancient, unfair rule of paying women teachers the same salaries that men teachers received for the same services.

It's all a part of the big question of democracy. If a woman is paid less than a man for doing the same work, simply because she's a woman, then the sex is in a state of serfdom, exploited by man to the extent of the difference in wages.

If this is really a democracy, and women are people, then men and women should have equal opportunity to earn a living, competing in business and industry on the same basis and being paid according to their earning power.

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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Columbia Record.

At the meeting of governors and ex-governors of states, held at Boston this week, a number of questions of public policy came up for discussion, and one of the things that we consider most interesting was the argument of Governor Edward F. Dunne of Illinois in behalf of the movement to abolish capital punishment.

The world is giving great thought to all matters relating to the punishment of crime, and prison reform is now one of the most popular of fads or movements. The conditions in some prisons are inhuman, but not much worse than the environment which the criminals left. In fact it is a backneyed joke in the South, and there is a lot of truth in it, that some chronics enjoy life on the chain gang or in jail so much that one term of punishment is no longer over than they commit some petty offense to get back into the prison again.

In this state, and in other Southern states where there is a predominance of negro population among the classes that get sentences for infractions of the law, it might be impossible to do away with capital punishment and yet safeguard the public in proper manner. Governor Dunne admits that capital punishment is regarded as a deterrent, and only for that reason is it tolerated. He makes a strong argument against capital punishment by comparing the records of the states that have abolished capital punishment with those that have not. These are taken from the census bureau's report for 1910.

He deduces that the states which have abolished capital punishment have the smallest number of homicides while the largest number secure in those states which hold to death punishment for certain crimes. While his logic is strong and his argument is eloquent the governor of Illinois fails to take into consideration another factor and that is geographical conditions.

We of the South have a particular problem. We have a particular crime which even capital punishment or the fear thereof fails at times to reach. If we should say that there should be no capital punishment for that offense, we would never in this world be able to stem the rising tide of lawlessness under the name of lynch law, vigilance committees, night riders, etc.

Lynch law can be stopped in only one way, and that is by an appeal to reason. The law should not be used too gently in punishing lynching, for even an acquittal is sometimes salutary in the financial toll it exacts, although the verdict of juries should be favorable to the defendant. But the application of the law is not the only remedy for lynching.

The people must be taught to regard the law as their friend and their protector; their reliance, their hope. And there are too many weak places in the law, especially that for the trial of certain offenses. Witnesses in such cases should not be required to go into court, and their depositions should be taken. And another weak place is that the defendant is not permitted to plead guilty in a case in which the punishment is death. There are some cases in which the trials should be speedy, the justice just and the punishment inevitable. That is the Virginia way.

We of the South are not yet ready

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for the entire removal of capital punishment. Especially so since there is no constitutional provision to prevent a governor from releasing after a short servitude one who deserves the very extreme limit of the law. In many cases the parole is a good thing, is humane and is safe. In other cases it should be prohibited by constitutional enactment.

"Women in the Home."

Anderson Mail.

H. G. Wells, Jules Verne, and other dreamers have pictured the dire disasters of an interruption of the common place of life. What would happen for example, if the sun failed to rise some morning, or if the law of gravitation should falter for a few minutes?

New York suffragists are going to demonstrate. They are tired of being taken for granted, like the rains and the seasons. Men have been clamoring that their place is in the homes, and they are going to show those men what would happen if they took them at their word. The telephone girls, the cashier at the lunch room, the worker in the factory, the girls behind the counters, the stenographers and the secretaries; all these form cogs in the industrial wheels which would wreck the machine if they suddenly dropped out.

So the New York suffragists are going to wrench the machinery by dropping them out for a day. All women not in homes are to go on a strike for twenty-four hours. Then, they hope, men will realize that, though they get along while their home women, their wives, go on vacations for a month, they cannot get along while the business women go on a strike for a single day.

Probably the men will capitulate. Before noon on the fateful day stock in the voting franchise will have gone down. It will not be nearly so precious to males as it now seems. They will be willing to lessen their clutches.

Then may we expect to explode, like a giant bubble, the tradition, "woman's place is in the home."

The Neglected Girl.

Florence Times.

From a girl who signs her letter "Discouraged," comes this plaint:

"Why is it so hard for the quiet girls nowadays to get a husband? It seems as though the loud giddy sisters is the most popular girl, while her quiet, reserved sister will have to sit in a corner. And still men say that when they come to picking out a wife they pick out the quiet one. It doesn't seem that way to me."

Alas, there isn't anything new about it. It's an old story. As W. S. Gilbert of Gilbert and Sullivan opera fame, wrote in his "Songs of Savoyard":

"To a garden full of posies
Cometh one to gather flowers,
And he wanders through its bow-
ers
Toying with the wonton roses,
Who uprising from their beds,
Hold on high their shameless
heads
With their pretty lips a-pouting,
Never doubting—never doubting
That for Cytherean posies
He would gather aught but roses!
In a nest of weeds and nettles,
Lay a violet half hidden,
Hoping that his glance unforbid-
den.

Yet might fall upon her petals,
Though she lived alone, apart,
Hope lay nestled at her heart.
But alas! the cruel awakening
Set her little heart a-breaking,
For he gathered for his posies
Only roses—only roses.

But perhaps it won't always remain so. When feminism has full sway, the girls will do their share of the choosing.

Here, however, comes a dreadful fear—

When the girls propose, will they pick the "quiet" man or the "loud," giddy ones?

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Why We Do Not Get Ahead.

Anderson Mail.

A man employs a great many men decided to discharge one of his employees not long ago. The man who was to be fired seemed surprised and he complained bitterly, "Why should I be discharged?" he asked. "I am running this job as well as anybody else ever ran it, and you know it."

"That is just the trouble," replied his employer. "You have the ability to run this job better than anybody else ever ran it, and I hired you on that account, but you are not doing it. You are content to run it just as well as anybody else ever ran it, and no better. You are not using your ability; you are not taking advantage of the opportunity that is open to you. You have ambition to do better."

Some may think this employer was harsh, but it must be admitted that he was just.

Yet if his rule were applied universally, many of us would soon lose our jobs. Many of us are putting along, doing just about as well as those who were doing the work before, but we are doing no better. That explains why we do not advance, and it explains why the busi-

ness entrusted to us does not thrive. It is the man who does his work better than anybody else has done it who gets ahead, and he is the man who starts new enterprises and makes old enterprises expand.

More Moonlight Study.

Charlotte Observer.

The Lexington Dispatch has the following information from a man who seems sure of his facts, that on account of the war scare "there is hidden away in Davidson county, in the ground between \$300,000 and \$500,000 in money that ought to be put into circulation." The Dispatch's informant gives an explanation that "somebody had started the report that when the European war ended this country would not have a sufficient amount of gold coin to pay its obligations, all of which is misinformation scattered about among people who don't know and who don't read and think for themselves."

We had not supposed that a condition of affairs of that kind could exist in any enlightened community in North Carolina, and yet it is a matter of record that in Charlotte deposits of some intelligent people, both in city and county, were withdrawn from the banks, and possibly a portion of it still remains in hiding. Looks like the line of education for the moonlight schools needs a little more broadening out.

DOINGS OF THE VAN LOONS



and it won't do Father any good to explain